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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) An automatic finger positioning guide for fingerprint scanners comprising:

- a) an active scan area on the scanner surface upon which one finger rests and a non-active area on the scanner surface on which one or more of the other fingers rest to provide stability;
- b) a stop post on the scanner surface to indicate how far to place the hand longitudinally thereof, the stop post being located on the scanner surface in relation to the active scan area so as to contact the vertex defined between the side of the one finger and the side of an adjacent finger when the hand is properly in place;
- c) a guide post on the scanner surface physically separate from the stop post to assist in positioning the finger laterally, the guide post being located on the scanner surface in relation to the active scan area so as to contact a portion of the side of the finger at a location between the stop post and the finger tip when the hand is properly in place; and

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d) means to indicate when the hand is properly in place.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The finger positioning guide according to claim 1, wherein pressure sensitive membrane switches are provided on the stop post and on the guide post.

4. (Original) The finger positioning guide according to claim 1, wherein left-hand and right-hand guide posts and stop posts are provided on the scanner surface.

5. (Currently amended) The finger positioning guide according to claim 1, further including a visual indicator on the scanner operatively connected to the ~~sensor~~ means to signal indicate when the hand is properly in place.

6. (Previously added) The finger positioning guide according to claim 1, wherein a sensor is on at least one of the posts to indicate when the hand is properly in place.

7. (New) The finger positioning guide according to claim 1, wherein the stop post and the guide post are so located relative to each other on the scanner surface so that the guide post contacts the same side of the one finger the vertex of which is contacted by the stop post.

8. (New) An automatic finger positioning guide for fingerprint scanners comprising:

- a) an active scan area on the scanner surface upon which one finger rests and a non-active area on the scanner surface on which one or more of the other fingers rest to provide stability;

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- b) a stop post on the scanner surface to indicate how far to place the hand longitudinally thereof, the stop post being located on the scanner surface in relation to the active scan area so as to contact the vertex defined between the side of the one finger and the side of an adjacent finger when the hand is properly in place;
- c) a guide post on the scanner surface to assist in positioning the finger laterally, the guide post being located on the scanner surface in relation to the active scan area so as to contact a portion of the side of the finger at a location between the stop post and the finger tip when the hand is properly in place;
- d) means to indicate when the hand is properly in place; and
- e) the stop post and the guide post being of electrically conductive material so that a circuit is completed when the hand is properly in place.

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